

must find it equally valuable for themselves. He prayed in his hours of emergency, and so, probably, does everybody. A famous man once said, "I do not believe much in the common theory about prayer, but I am sure that, if I were to find myself adrift in an open boat in midocean, I should pray to God as earnestly as anybody else would." But Jesus also prayed when he was happy, and with as much conviction of the propriety and value of prayer then as at any other time.

His prayers should serve us as examples, by reason of the absolute assurance of God's interest in us and tender concern for us, on which they are based. He went to his Father in that childlike, trustful spirit which he has bidden us cherish. And the underlying mood was always that which came to the surface in that terrible hour of anguish in Gethsemane, "Nevertheless, not my will but thine be done." It is noticeable how conspicuous in his prayers was thanksgiving. Their unselfishness also strikes us. Jesus did not think first and chiefly of himself, and of what he wished or did not wish. He loved to pray for others, and his prayers for them reveal his longing for their highest, holiest welfare.

Simplicity, sincerity, earnestness, reverence and a mighty faith—these are the characteristics of prayers of Christ, so far as his utterances of this are recorded. If we were to study them more frequently, and absorb their spirit more fully, there would be great benefit to our own petitions, whether private or public.

The Christian Life

The Light of Life

Heavenly Father, when the tempests
Beat across our lonely way,
When the shadows quickly gather,
Shutting out the light of day,
Let us feel Thine arm sustaining,
Let Thy presence cheer our path,
And some rays of Thy great glory
Penetrate the clouds of wrath.

Earthly trials shall but strengthen
Him who truly trusts in Thee;
Woes and sorrows shall but heighten
Heavenly joys, full, rich and free.
In this faith the soul finds comfort,
Wisdom shows Thy ruling hand,
Lord, remove our sin and blindness,
Pure before Thee may we stand.

—Oscar B. Smith.

Seeing Him Who Is Invisible

The Christian Advocate.

Truly did Jesus say to his care-worn friend, Martha, "But one thing is needful." Having that one thing, we can live if we have nothing else. Mary chose to have it, and her choice was gratified. She sat at Jesus' feet, "kept listening" to his word, and saw his blessed face. No doubt that experience stayed by her in many trials, and was worth more to her than all other possessions combined.

We have proved it so ourselves. Care presses heavily, anxieties disquiet us, the way we walk is dark and uncertain, nerve

forsakes us, courage runs very low, "heart and flesh fail." But if in an extremity we "keep listening" to the Word as the Spirit brings to our remembrance whatsoever he hath said, and if thro the darkness we see the face of God, we can endure the unendurable.

Those are wonderful expressions of the Psalmist: "Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence;" "Thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion." He spoke of being hidden from the "pride of man" and from the "strife of tongues," but these represent all the pain and disappointment, the tumult and trouble of human experience. He is "as a hiding-place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest." Often we cry out, "The waters have come into my soul;" the waves are so high that the little bark of our life seems unable to ride over them safely, and in that moment of extremity we find the "covert," and we are safe.

"The winds and the waves shall obey my will;
Peace, be still!"

Whether the wrath of the storm-tossed sea,
Or demons, or man, or whatever it be,
No water can swallow the ship where lies
The Master of ocean and earth and skies;
They all shall sweetly obey my will;
Peace, be still!

"For There Is No Difference"

Rev. F. B. Meyer.

There is no favoritism with God; just as the spring flowers, the sunshine, and the pure air are for all, as free to the beggar as to the sovereign, so God's abundant grace is for every man and woman, and there is nothing that any one has ever had which you may not have, if you will. The same stream is passing your door, though you may not utilize the power to drive your water-wheel; the same electricity is in the air, though you have not learned to make it flash messages or do the work of your home. The same grace that made a Luther, a Knox, a Latimer, a Frances Ridley Havergal, or a Spurgeon is for you to-day, and if you are living a low-down life, beaten and thwarted and dashed down and constantly compelled to admit shortcomings and failure, understand it is not because there is any favoritism on God's part; because all the Holy Ghost's power, and everything story in Jesus Christ, is waiting to make you a saint, and to lift you to the level which you pine for in your best moments. It makes a great difference when a man understands this.

Enthusiasm

Rev. Philip S. Moxom.

There is no true work done without enthusiasm. The artist whose heart is cold is a mere artisan. The student of science who works with no great humane enthusiasm for knowledge is only a mechanism more delicately organized than his microscope or his magnetic battery. The statesman who is simply a calculating player with human pawns on the chess-board of a nation or a political party, is less a man than the humblest citizen whom the impulse of patriotism urges to the daily discharge of civic duty, or

pushes on to the battle's front in the hour of his country's peril.

The deepest secret of life, as well as the mightiest force of life, is love. Without love there is no enthusiasm, and without ideals there is no enthusiasm. We freeze our hearts by selfishness, and stifle them by sordidness. We fix our eyes upon the little field circumscribed by our day's activities and ends. With no wide-reaching affection and no uplifting ideal, we make of our life a treadmill, and of our duty an unwelcome drudgery. We disclaim the highest endowment of the soul, and deny our sonship to God. Narrow faiths and narrow hopes put fetters on the spirit, and small affections keep small the heart and low the temperature of life.

Through a Glass Darkly

Christian Advocate.

It is blind folly to reject a divine providence in our lives because we have not been admitted to the secret chambers where God presides over the realm of spiritual force; where He takes into account not only our individual concerns, but also the highest well-being of those whom we are expected to influence; not only this brief span of life, but also the limitless future; not only the moral results of human actions, but also the unalterable issues of moral action in that world which will soon break upon our vision with all its solemn meaning. We know in part, and this is well. And yet who does not ofttime long to see and know? That "thorn in the flesh," that secret something in our daily life which seems only to irritate; than thorn which sometimes seems to us so unnecessary—ah, to bring all this to the test where we can see that it is God's messenger! This is the highest, sweetest knowledge; and this is the summit toward which our heavenly Father is ever pointing us. It will be a wonderful revelation when we see "face to face," as God sees. How sorry and ashamed we will be that we ever thought we could manage our affairs better than He is managing for us. And what reversals of our judgments of others there will be! We wonder why God does certain things and does not do certain other things in reference to people whom we know. His dealings appear strange. Let us leave all with Him; with His infinite wisdom, patience, and love.

Among the greatest surprises in that day of revelations will be that the things we grieved over most and thought the most unfortunate, really contributed most to our eternal weight of glory. The sorest loss in life is the loss of a believing heart. We know only in part, but the believing heart does know some things with certainty. We know that all things work together for good to them that love God. We know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding that we may know Him that is true; and we are in Him that is true, even in His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. We know that if this earthly house were dissolved, we have a building of God, eternal in the heavens. And we know